

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission receives federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to:

**Arizona Game and Fish Department  
Office of the Deputy Director DOHQ  
2221 W. Greenway Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85023-4399**

**The Office for Diversity and Civil Rights  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 300  
Arlington, Virginia 22203**

The Arizona Game and Fish Department complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This document is available in alternative format by contacting The Arizona Game and Fish Department, Office of the Deputy Director at the address listed above or by calling (602) 789-3290 or TTY 1-800-367-8939.

Arizona Game and Fish Department  
555 N. Greasewood Road  
Tucson, AZ 85745

*“Managing Today For Wildlife Tomorrow”*

# Feeding Wildlife Attracts Predators



**Keep Wildlife  
Healthy & Wild:  
Do Not Feed!**

Urban wildlife is with us daily. Human-wildlife interactions occur routinely. Due to an expanding human population and the increased encroachment into former wildlife habitats, wildlife-human interactions are increasing, especially in urban/wild-land fringe areas. But even in the heart of our cities, wild animals are usually there although they are often unseen.

Coyotes, javelina, bobcats, mountain lions, skunks, raccoons, rabbits and other wild animals are already present in urban areas, and can be drawn into the lush habitats we have created around our homes, parks, golf courses, and businesses. Keep in mind that the root of most human-wildlife conflicts is food.

## Urban Wildlife And Humans

Humans are the dominant players in an urban wildlife-human interaction. Unprovoked attacks on humans by wildlife are extremely rare. If you use common sense and follow these tips, the wildlife, your pets, family and neighbors will all benefit.

**If you don't want** javelina, coyotes, bobcats, skunks and other critters in your yard, a low-voltage electric fence (there are even solar ones available) can be harmless yet effective (be sure to check city ordinances dealing with electric fences). You may want to block potential wildlife travelways between houses.

Although the Game and Fish Department has occasionally removed javelina and other urban wildlife, **removal is only a short-term remedy, not a solution**, and there are serious drawbacks associated with such removals. For instance, tranquilizing wild animals is dangerous and can sometimes prove fatal to the animal. It can also be hazardous to the public if a dart falls off a fleeing animal or misses the target and is not found. Live trapping is time consuming and seldom effective.

**Removal is a last resort to be used when there is a threat to human safety.** It is not a long-term solution because if the attractants are still there, other wild animals will soon move in to fill the vacancy and often more animals move into the newly unoccupied site. **You, and your actions, provide the only real answers.**

Also, relocating wildlife is not as kind as it might seem. The animal is not likely to survive in an unfamiliar area. Javelina, for instance, are herd animals that depend on social contact with family members for feeding, bedding, play and

protection from predators. A javelina released into another established herd's territory is rarely accepted into the group. The chances of survival for a solitary animal are considered to be low. Most wildlife will try to return to their home, and traveling makes them susceptible to death by predation, exposure, or collision with a vehicle.

Keep in mind that **we have chosen to build our dwellings in wildlife habitat**, quite often displacing some animals, while also providing attractive habitats for others. We as humans have created the potential problems. It is easier for humans to change behavior than for wildlife to change. **Be good neighbors to your wildlife.**

## It is essential that people do NOT feed wildlife!

### Keep wildlife healthy and wild with these tips:

- ✓ **Do not** intentionally feed **wildlife**; animals quickly associate food with humans.
- ✓ **Feed pets** indoors or remove leftover food immediately.
- ✓ **Store all garbage securely.** Do not discard edible garbage where javelina, skunks, coyotes, and other wild animals can get to it.
- ✓ **Keep bird seed and water** off the ground and out of reach of wild animals. A platform can be attached to the bottom of most feeders to catch spilled seed. Or better yet, plant native vegetation that will provide seeds native wildlife can utilize.
- ✓ **Fencing your garden** may be necessary to

keep out animals such as javelina and rabbits. Remember, prey species such as rabbits and javelina can attract predators such as mountain lions.

- ✓ **Shrubbery** that provides hiding cover for wild animals should be trimmed up from the ground.
- ✓ **Securely close all openings** to spaces under buildings and mobile homes. This is even more critical in the spring when many animals from foxes to skunks are looking for den sites.
- ✓ **Don't let your pets be free roaming** – they may end up as a meal for coyotes, hawks, owls, bobcats, and other predators, or come into conflict with javelina and skunks. Keep your pets on a leash whenever they are out of the yard.
- ✓ **Discourage javelina and other wild animals** that are visiting your area by making loud noises, throwing rocks, etc. to make them leave. You are doing them a favor – if they continue to fear humans, they will be less inclined to come in conflict (and possible die or be injured as a result).
- ✓ **Plant natural vegetation** rather than tempting non-native ornamentals. For javelina, plant toxic bulbs such as iris and narcissus instead of tasty bulbs such as tulips. Poultry wire placed at or just below the soil surface helps protect beds from digging.

**Ask your neighbors to follow these steps** (even share this information with them). Wild animals such as javelina, bobcats and coyotes that are attracted to one home often visit neighboring lots. This is a neighborhood issue, not just a single homeowner one.